

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. ATT/1999-0759

REMARKS

In view of the following discussion, the Applicant submits that none of the claims now pending in the application is anticipated or obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. Thus, the Applicant believes that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-7, 21 AND 22 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102**A. Claims 1-6**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Okawa (US Patent 6,842,442, herein referred to as "Okawa").

Responsive to the Examiner, Applicant herein cancels claims 1-6 without prejudice. Thus, the present rejection is now moot. However, Applicant reserves the right to file one or more continuation applications to continue prosecution of these cancelled claims.

B. Claims 1, 7, 21 and 22

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 7, 21 and 22 in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Lundby, et al. (US Patent 6,421,327, herein referred to as "Lundby").

Responsive to the Examiner, Applicant herein cancels claims 1, 7, 21 and 22 without prejudice. Thus, the present rejection is now moot. However, Applicant reserves the right to file one or more continuation applications to continue prosecution of these cancelled claims.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 8-17 AND 27 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103**A. Claims 10-16 and 27**

The Examiner has rejected claims 10-16 and 27 in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Okawa.

Responsive to the Examiner, Applicant herein cancels claims 10-16 and 27 without prejudice. Thus, the present rejection is now moot. However, Applicant

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reserves the right to file one or more continuation applications to continue prosecution of these cancelled claims.

B. Claims 8-10 and 17

The Examiner has rejected claims 8-10 and 17 in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Lundby.

Responsive to the Examiner, Applicant herein cancels claims 8-10 and 17 without prejudice. Thus, the present rejection is now moot. However, Applicant reserves the right to file one or more continuation applications to continue prosecution of these cancelled claims.

III. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for his comments regarding the allowability of claims 23 and 28 if rewritten in an independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Responsive to the Examiner, Applicant herein amends claims 23 and 28 into independent claim form. Thus, Applicant submits that claims 23 and 28 are now in allowable form.

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Conclusion


Thus, the Applicant submits that now fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103. Consequently, the Applicant believes that these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the issuance of a final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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